

What is claimed is:

1. A method of controlling transfer of proprietary content on a computer network comprising the steps of:
 - identifying computers offering proprietary content on the computer network;
 - identifying network addresses corresponding to the computers;
 - identifying physical addresses corresponding to the network addresses; and
 - communicating a warning notice to at least one physical address.
2. The method of claim 1, further including the step of generating a tag corresponding to the proprietary content.
3. The method of claim 2, further including the step of comparing the tag to other tags in a database of tags.
4. The method of claim 2, wherein the tag includes spectral information corresponding to the proprietary content.
5. The method of claim 1, further including the step of identifying owners of the network addresses.
6. The method of claim 1, further including the step of storing the network addresses in a database of addresses.

7. The method of claim 1, further including the step of removing duplicate network addresses from the database of addresses.
8. The method of claim 1, wherein the proprietary content includes music.
9. The method of claim 1, wherein the proprietary content includes a movie.
10. The method of claim 1, wherein the proprietary content includes at least a portion of a book.
11. The method of claim 1, wherein the proprietary content includes an image.
12. The method of claim 1, wherein the warning notice is a cease and desist letter.
13. The method of claim 1, wherein the warning notice is sent by mail.
14. The method of claim 1, wherein the warning notice is sent by e-mail.
15. The method of claim 1, wherein the network is the Internet.
16. The method of claim 1, wherein the computers are part of a peer-to-peer file sharing network.

17. A method of identifying violators of intellectual property rights on a computer network comprising the steps of:

continuously identifying computers offering proprietary content on the computer network;

identifying network addresses corresponding to the computers; and

storing the network addresses in an updatable network address database.

18. The method of claim 17, further including the step of generating a tag corresponding to the proprietary content.

19. The method of claim 18, further including the step of comparing the tag to other tags in a tag database.

20. The method of claim 18, wherein the tag includes spectral information corresponding to the proprietary content.

21. The method of claim 17, further including the step of identifying owners of the network addresses.

22. The method of claim 17, further including the step of removing duplicate network addresses from the network address database.

23. The method of claim 17, wherein the proprietary content includes music.

24. The method of claim 17, wherein the proprietary content includes a movie.

25. The method of claim 17, wherein the proprietary content includes at least a portion of a book.

26. The method of claim 17, wherein the proprietary content includes an image.

27. The method of claim 17, wherein the warning notice is a cease and desist letter.

28. The method of claim 17, wherein the warning notice is sent by mail.

29. The method of claim 17, wherein the warning notice is sent by e-mail.

30. The method of claim 17, wherein the network is the Internet.

31. The method of claim 17, wherein the computers are part of a peer-to-peer file sharing network.

32. A system for controlling transfer of proprietary content comprising:
means for identifying computers offering proprietary content on a network;
means for identifying network addresses corresponding to the computers;
means for identifying physical addresses corresponding to the network addresses; and
means for communicating a warning notice to at least one physical address.
33. The system of claim 32, further including means for generating a tag corresponding to the proprietary content.
34. The system of claim 33, further including means for comparing the tag to other tags in a database of tags.
35. The system of claim 33, wherein the tag includes spectral information corresponding to the proprietary content.
36. The system of claim 32, further including means for identifying user names corresponding to the computers.
37. The system of claim 32, further including means for storing the network addresses in a database of addresses.
38. The system of claim 32, further including means for removing duplicate network addresses from the database of addresses.

39. The system of claim 32, wherein the proprietary content includes music.
40. The system of claim 32 wherein the proprietary content includes a movie.
41. The system of claim 32, wherein the proprietary content includes at least a portion of a book.
42. The system of claim 32, wherein the proprietary content includes an image.
43. The system of claim 32, wherein the warning notice is a cease and desist letter.
44. The system of claim 32, wherein the warning notice is sent by mail.
45. The system of claim 32, wherein the warning notice is sent by e-mail.
46. The system of claim 32, wherein the network is the Internet.
47. The system of claim 32, wherein the computers are part of a peer-to-peer file sharing network.

48. A method of identifying violators of intellectual property rights comprising:
means for continuously identifying computers offering proprietary content on a network;
means for identifying network addresses corresponding to the computers;
means for storing the network addresses in an updatable network address database.

49. The system of claim 48, further including means for generating a tag
corresponding to the proprietary content.

50. The system of claim 49, further including means for comparing the tag to other
tags in a tag database.

51. The system of claim 49, wherein the tag includes spectral information
corresponding to the content.

52. The system of claim 48, further including means for identifying user names
corresponding to the computers.

53. The system of claim 48, further including means for removing duplicate network
addresses from the network address database.

54. The system of claim 48, wherein the proprietary content includes music.

55. The system of claim 48, wherein the proprietary content includes a movie.

56. The system of claim 48, wherein the proprietary content includes at least a portion of a book.
57. The system of claim 48, wherein the proprietary content includes at least one of an image, music, a movie, publishing content, an executable file, a video game, private health record, a pharmaceutical record, confidential personal documents, a will, a virus, a financial record, a CAD drawing, trade secret information, a customer list, and a confidential corporate document.
58. The system of claim 48, wherein the warning notice is a cease and desist letter.
59. The system of claim 48, wherein the warning notice is sent by mail.
60. The system of claim 48 wherein the warning notice is sent by e-mail.
61. The system of claim 48, wherein the network is the Internet.
62. The system of claim 48, wherein the computers are part of at least one of a peer-to-peer file sharing network, web sites, centralized servers, gopher sites, Usenet, email sites and FTP sites.

63. A computer program product for controlling transfer of proprietary content comprising:

a computer usable medium having computer readable program code means embodied in the computer usable medium for causing an application program to execute on a computer system, the computer readable program code means comprising:

computer readable program code means for identifying computers offering proprietary content on a network;

computer readable program code means for identifying network addresses corresponding to the computers;

computer readable program code means for identifying physical addresses corresponding to the network addresses; and

computer readable program code means for communicating a warning notice to at least one physical address.